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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/662,789

09/15/2003

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12/14/2006

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EXAMINER

VEILLARD, JACQUES

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2165

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/662,789

Applicant(s)

CHEFALAS ET AL.

Examiner

Jacques Veillard

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/15/2003.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to the applicant's communication filed on 09/15/2003.
2. Claims 1-23 are pending and presented for examination.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on September 15, 2003 complies with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, it has been placed in the application file. The information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claims 8, and 17-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

As per claim 8, the wording of claim appears to be directed to a non-functional descriptive material, data *per se*, stores (for example on a medium). What's being stored on the (storage or medium) does not appear to meet the IEEE definition of a data structure, and no instructions or other code for causing functionality that results in a practical application appears to be present. As such, claim 8 appears to be solely non-functional descriptive material stored on a medium and therefore non-statutory.

As per claim 17, the claim is not limited to tangible embodiments. In view of Applicant's disclosure, specification page 20 lines 13-22 contains language ... that makes claim 17 non

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statutory. The term 'computer-readable medium,' as used herein, refers to any medium that provides information or is usable by the processor(s). Such medium, as defined on page 20, may take many forms, including, but not limited to, non-volatile, volatile, and transmission-type media...Transmission-type media includes coaxial cables, copper wire and fiber optics, including the wires that comprise the bus or wireless communication using transmission forms, such as radio frequency and light wave transmissions. It is noted that transmission-type ... media can also take the form of carrier waves, i.e., electromagnetic waves that can be modulated, as in frequency, amplitude, or phase, to transmit information signals. Additionally, transmission media can take the form of acoustic or light waves, such as those generated during radio wave and infrared data communications. Furthermore, the computer-readable media, as described in applicant's disclosure, specification page specifically lines 20-22, may take the form of **coded formats** that are decoded for actual use in a particular data processing system. In this descriptive portion of the spec, the applicant appears to be portraying "coded formats" as "computer-readable media". Presumably, the described "coded formats" are formats of the functional descriptive material. Although, the term "coded formats" is not further explained in the specification, however, the plain meaning of the descriptive phraseology "coded formats" suggests forms of (or plans for) coding of the functional descriptive material. Any form of coding or plan for coding of the functional descriptive material that may be used (or may be available for use) to produce coded functional descriptive material, is merely an abstraction. An abstraction as applied to functional descriptive material does not meet the legal definition of a "manufacture"(or any other statutory class of invention) under 35 USC 101. As such, claim 17 is not limited to a statutory subject matter and is therefore non-statutory.

As per claims 18-23, they are at least rejected due to their dependencies, directly or indirectly to the rejected claim 17 above.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howard et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 6,185,574) in view of Peltonen et al. U. S. Pat. No. 5,926,807).

As per claims 1, 8, 10, and 17, Howard et al. disclose a system, which including data processing system for locating files in a hierarchical directories as detailed in col.10, lines 10-12, col.12, lines 27-34, col.12, line 66 through col.14, line 6). In particular, Howard et al. disclose the claimed limitations wherein an input has been received indicating that a file is to be saved (See Howard et al. Fig.15 in conjunction with steps 754 and 758, col.31, lines 18-23). Howard et al. specifically disclose that a user can retrieve a file where the file is saved as detailed in col.4, lines 55-57, col.12, lines 16-27). It is noted, however, Howard et al. did not specifically disclose the system for saving the file in association with a unique identifier in a data store, responsive to receiving an input, wherein the data store describes associations between files and unique identifiers and wherein files are retrieved based on unique identifiers. On the other hand, Peltonen et al. disclose a system for effectively representing query result in a memory where files have been saved or stored (See Peltonen et al. Title and abstract, col.2, lines 55-67). In particular,

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Peltonen et al. achieved the claimed limitations of, saving the file in association with a unique identifier in a data store, responsive to receiving an input, wherein the data store describes associations between files and unique identifiers and wherein files are retrieved based on unique identifiers, by providing a bookmark associated with files as a unique identifier to identify files (See Peltonen et al. Abstract lines 14-19, col.9, lines 25-67, col.11, lines 16-39).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention was made to modify the parallel virtual directory system of Howard et al. by incorporating the bookmark mechanism taught by Peltonen et al. because that would have enhanced the system of Howard et al. by allowing it to retrieve files or documents store in data store quickly and efficiently using the bookmark as a unique identifier and return the result appropriately in response to a request (See Peltonen et al. Abstract lines 14-19, col.8, lines 1-6).

As per claim 9, most of the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 17. Applicant attention is directed to the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 17 above. In addition, the combination of Howard et al. and Peltonen et al, as modified, discloses the claimed limitations further comprising: a bus system; a communication unit connected to the bus system; a memory connected to the bus system (See Howard et al. Fig.1 in which Howard et al. disclose that various components related to virtual directory system, Fig.2 wherein Howard et al. disclose a processing unit including a memory system and a network filesystem connected to a network storage that facilitated communication between them). Therefore, the claim is rejected in the same grounds for arguments given for the corresponding claims 1, 8, and 17 above.

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As per claims 2, 11, and 18, most of the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 17. Applicant attention is directed to the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 17 above. In addition, the combination of Howard et al. and Peltonen et al, as modified, discloses the claimed limitations further comprising: responsive to a request from a requester for files associated with the unique identifier, querying the data store for an identification of the files associated with the unique identifier, receiving a result from the data store; and returning the result to the requester (See Peltonen et al. Abstract lines 14-19).

As per claims 3, 12, and 19, most of the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 17. Applicant attention is directed to the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 17 above. In addition, the combination of Howard et al. and Peltonen et al, as modified, discloses the claimed limitations, wherein the result is presented as a list of categories to a user (See Howard et al. col.7, lines 43-53, col.17, lines 25-30).

As per claims 4, 13, and 20, most of the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 17. Applicant attention is directed to the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 17 above. In addition, the combination of Howard et al. and Peltonen et al, as modified, discloses the claimed limitations, wherein the locations of the file are in a remote data processing system (See Howard et al. Abstract lines 4-5, col.2, lines 45-46).

As per claims 5, 14, and 21, most of the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 17. Applicant attention is directed to the rejection of claims 1, 10,

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and 17 above. In addition, the combination of Howard et al. and Peltonen et al, as modified, discloses the claimed limitations, wherein input is a user input to save the file (See Howard et al. col.31, lines 18-23).

As per claims 6, 15, and 22, most of the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 17. Applicant attention is directed to the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 17 above. In addition, the combination of Howard et al. and Peltonen et al, as modified, discloses the claimed limitations, wherein the input is from a program initiating saving of the file (See Howard et al. col.3, lines 64-66, col.31, lines 21-22).

As per claims 7, 16, and 23, most of the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 17. Applicant attention is directed to the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 17 above. In addition, the combination of Howard et al. and Peltonen et al, as modified, discloses the claimed limitations, wherein the identifier is selected from one of a user name, an event, or a task (See Howard et al. col.4, lines 50-54, col.15, lines 18-23).

#### ***Prior Art Made of Record***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications will not be supplied with Office actions. Examiners advises the Applicant that the cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are available for download via the Office's PAIR. As an alternate source, all U.S. patents and patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site



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([www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)), from the Office of Public Records and from commercial sources. For the use of the Office's PAIR system, Applicants may refer to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html> or 1-866-217-9197.

### ***Conclusion***

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacques Veillard whose telephone number is (571) 272-4086. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Fri. from 9 AM to 4:30 PM, alt. Fri. off..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on (571) 272- 4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

*J.V.*  
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Jacques Veillard  
Patent Examiner TC 2100

December 07, 2006

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